supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.

(b) As per an assessment of diversion made by the Tata Economic Consultancy Service (TECS) on the basis of a sample survey in the year 1997 36% of wheat and 31 % of rice is diverted from PDS in the country.

(c) State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels and to make arrangement for distribution of PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) etc. in implementation of PDS. They have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against erring FPS owners under Essential Commodities Act, 1955. A model Citizen's Charter for PDS has also been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption as a step to enhance the transparency and accountability in the system. The Government of India has also appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of PDS including the complaints of diversion.

Outstanding dues against sugar mills

†1684. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of money, in respect of payment of sale of sugarcane by sugarcane producing farmers, was outstanding towards sugar mills of the country at the end of September, 1999;

(b) if so, what was the total outstanding amount and the names of States whose sugar mills owed this amount, togetherwith the break-up of this amount, separately; and

(c) whether Government have issued directions to pay this outstanding amount without any further delay; if so, when the said directions were issued, alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER

†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.

AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) As on 30.09.1999, (he cane price arrears payable by the Sugar Mills to the cane growers for sugar season (Oct-Sept) 1998-99 were to the tune of Rs. 288.65 crores, which further got reduced to Rs. 255.36 crores as on 30.11.1999. The Stale-wise details are given in the Statement. *(See* below)

(c) The responsibility for ensuring timely payment of cane price dues to the farmers by the sugar mills lies with the State Governments, who have necessary powers and field agencies to ensure such payments. The Central Government on its part has been drawing the attention of the State Governments to the provision of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 including payment of interest in the case of delay beyond 15 days and they are being advised at the highest level from time to time to expedite clearance of cane price arrears. The last letter was sent to the Chief Ministers of the concerned State Governments on 31.1.2000. Central Government has also been pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious release of free sale sugar quotas to enable the sugar factories to clear the cane price dues of the farmers.

Statement

Statewise position of cane prices payable, price paid and balance outstanding for cane purchased during 1998-99 season as on 30.09.1999.

(Figures in lakh Rs.)

State	Total Price Payable for cane purchased during 1998-99 upto 30-9-99	Cane Price paid upto 30-9-99	Balance Cane Price payable as on 30-9-99
Punjab	31616.18	31005.22	610.96
Haryana	35212.94	34393.37	819.57
Rajasthan	2069.07	2068.87	0.20
West UP	103534.16	99746.52	3787.64
Central UP	114863.85	108775.61	6088.24
East UP	54455.49	50672.34	3783.15
Total UP	272853.50	259194.47	13659.03
Madhya Pradesh	5606.97	4808.80	798.17
South Gujarat	68983.84	68670.82	313.02
Saurashtra	5742.15	5646.28	95.87
Total Gujarat	74725.99	74317.10	408.89
South Maharashtra	111670.46	111624.98	45.49

State	Total Price Payable for cane purchased during 1998-99 upto 30.9.99	Cane Price paid upto 30-9-99	Balance Cane Price payable as on 30-9-99
North Maharashtra	40898.09	40076.07	822.02
Central Maharashtra	115620.66	115131.79	488.87
Total Maharashtra	268189.22	266832.84	1356.38
North Bihar	18037.78	16939.57	1098.21
South Bihar	—	—	—
Total Bihar	18037.78	16939.57	1098.21
Assam	284.41	284.41	—
Andhra Pradesh	64857.98	62432.66	2425.32
Karnataka	73982.56	71451.84	2530.72
Tamil Nadu	107321.54	102305.85	5015.69
Kerala	452.35	452.35	—
Orissa	4808.02	4765.72	42.30
West Bengal	526.81	523.98	2.83
Nagaland	—	—	—
Pondicherry	3636.97	3540.72	96.25
Goa	1502.39	1502.39	-
All India	965684.68	936820.16	28864.52

Prices of Essential Commodities under PDS

†1685. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of the items to be distributed through Public Distribution System are likely to be increased heavily by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would take care of the people living below the poverty line while doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) The quantity of wheat or rice being allocated to BPL families will be raised from 10 Kgs. to 20 Kgs. per month, and the Central Issue Prices will be fixed at 50% of the economic cost of these items, as against 30% which they arc

†Original Notice of the question was received in Hindi.